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Stolen Valor Bill Passes Assembly *Legislation Will Now Move to the State Senate*

Madison- Today, the State Assembly passed the Wisconsin Stolen Valor Bill, authored by State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard). The bill will now move to the Senate, where it has already garnered bipartisan support.

The Wisconsin Stolen Valor Bill, which would create a penalty for falsely claiming military service or honors in order to receive benefits, has gained strong support both inside the Legislature and by various outside groups including the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and FBI Agents Association.

“Today, the Assembly took an important step in protecting our veterans’ rights. We sent the clear message that anyone who lies about military service for their own selfish gain will be met with real consequences in our state,” commented Rep. Steffen.

Passage of the bill would allow Wisconsin to join 15 other states that already have some form of a Stolen Valor Law. Perpetrators in Wisconsin could face charges ranging from a class A misdemeanor to a class H felony, resulting in up to \$10,000 in fines and/or 6 years imprisonment.

“Stolen valor is a crime committed against our greatest heroes, our veterans. Perpetrators of stolen valor show absolute disrespect for our military men and women, and I am confident that our state will soon have the tools necessary to prosecute these cases,” said Rep. Steffen.

Follow the link for a video clip from Rep. Steffen speaking about Wisconsin’s Stolen Valor Bill:
<http://media2.legis.state.wi.us/multimedia/ASMGop/SteffenBill.wmv>

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